

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 SCA-01 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SAJ-01

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9990

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2234

E. O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: PFOR, CPAS, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN PASSPORT POLICY

REF: A) USNATO 2203 (NOTAL; B) USNATO 2205 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. ON INSTRUCTIONS, ITALIAN REP PROPOSED AT SPECIAL POLADS MEETING MAY 8 THAT ALLIES ACCEPT " COMPROMISE" WHICH ROME BELIEVED LARG HAS OFFERED. ONLY TURKISH REP INDICATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES GIVING FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO SOLUTION ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY ITALIANS. DUTCH AND UK REPS SPOKE STRONGLY AGAINST LINE PROPOSED BY ITALIAN. US REP DREW ON PARA 3 OF STATE 85612. FRENCH REP PLEADED NO INSTRUCTIONS
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WHEN QUERIED RE PARIS' POLICY. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED MAY 11.
ACTION REQUESTED: FOR MAY 11 MEETING, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT' S GUIDANCE REGARDING OUR POSITION ON ITALIAN PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

1. ITALIAN REP, WHO HAD REQUESTED SPECIAL POLAD MEETING, OPENED DISCUSSION WITH STATEMENT WHICH STRESSED NEW FLEXIBILITY SHOWN BY LARG DURING LAST FEW DAYS. IN PARTICULAR, ITALIAN REP CITED MAY 7 NOTE VERBALE OF LARG FONMIN WHICH STATED THAT PASSPORTS OF PERSONS DESIRING ENTER LARG DID NOT HAVE TO BE IN ARABIC. RATHER, BASIC INFORMATION ON PASSPORT HOLDER SHOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO ARABIC ON SEPARATE SHEET WITH SEAL OF ISSUING AUTHORITIES. ITALIAN REP SAID ROME SAW LATEST LARG MOVE AS "FACE- SAVING DEVICE FOR QUADAFI" WHICH WAS BEST WEST COULD EXPECT. ITALIAN REP ADMITTED THAT THIS COURSE OF ACTION SET BAD PRECEDENT, BUT EXPLAINED THAT ITALIAN INTERESTS IN MAINTAINING TIES WITH LARG (" ONE OF THE MOST ANTI- COMMUNIST ARAB STATES") WERE SEEN IN ROME AS OVERRIDING.

2. ITALIAN REP ALSO NOTED THAT LARG HAD REINSTATED VARIOUS EXEMPT CATEGORIES, INCLUDING: 1) CREWS OF PLANES AND SHIPS CALLING IN LARG; 2) EXPERTS AND TECHNICIANS WHOSE PRESENCE WAS IN LARG' S INTEREST FOR EITHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTORS; 3) PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN LARG DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS; AND 4) BUSINESSMEN COMING TO LARG IN CONNECTION WITH TENDERS FOR PROJECTS. ITALIAN REP OBSERVED THAT FAMILIES OF ABOVE CATEGORIES AND DIPLOMATS WERE NOT ON LATEST LIST OF EXCEPTIONS, BUT ROME HAD INDICATION FROM LARG THAT FAMILY MEMBERS WERE IN FACT COVERED. RETURNING TO LARG " COMPROMISE," ITALIAN REP SAID ROME " WOULD HAVE TROUBLE RESISTING THIS OFFER."

3. US REP ASKED WHETHER ANY OTHER ALLIES HAD DECIDED FOLLOW COURSE PROPOSED BY ITALY. TURKISH REP SAID ANKARA TENDING TOWARDS TYPE OF SOLUTION PROPOSED BY ITALIANS BUT HAD NOT MADE FINAL DECISION. IF TURKS DECIDED FOLLOW ITALIAN PROPOSAL, TURKISH REP SAID TURKEY WOULD DEMAND RECIPROCITY FROM LARG, I. E., HOLDERS OF LARG PASSPORTS WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE TURKISH TRANSLATION ON SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER ATTACHED TO PASSPORT.
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4. NETHERLANDS REP SAID COURSE OF ACTION PROPOSED BY ITALIANS WAS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE HAGUE. HE SUGGESTED THAT ALLIES AGREE TO DELAY ALL VISAS FOR LARG PASSPORT HOLDERS FOR FOUR WEEKS AS PRESSURE TACTIC. GREEK REP SAID HE ASSUMED THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN ATHENS' POLICY OF RETALIATION AGAINST LATEST LARG MOVE (SEE REF A). US REP SAID WE HAD REPORT FRANCE HAD DECIDED ADOPT POLICY PROPOSED BY ITALIAN REP AND ASKED WHETHER THIS WAS CASE. FRENCH REP SAID HE WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS.

5. UK REP SAID LONDON WOULD " DEPLORE" MOVE BY ALLIED GOVERNMENTS ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY ITALY. HE REPORTED THAT LARG AMBASSADOR IN LONDON HAD TOLD FCO MAY 7 THAT NEW REGULATIONS HAD BEEN

RESCINDED. LARG AMBASSADOR WAS VAGUE ON STATUS OF DIPLOMATS AND TOURISTS BUT IMPLIED THAT THESE WERE NOT EXEMPT FROM ARABIC REQUIREMENT. UK REP ALSO NOTED REPORT THAT SIX GREEKS HAD ENTERED LARG MAY 6 WITH ARABIC TRANSLATIONS OF PASSPORTS AUTHENTICATED BY GREEK MFA AND THAT SPANISH FIRST SECRETARY HAD ENTERED SAME DAY WITH ARABIC TRANSLATION ADDED BY SPANISH MFA. IN RESPONSE TO FIRST REPORT, GREEK REP SAID HE WOULD CHECK WITH ATHENS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT GROUP OF GREEK TOURISTS AND ORTHODOX ARCHDISHOP OF LIBYA HAD ENTERED LARG MAY 6, BUT HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS. ITALIAN REP CLARIFIED THAT SPANISH DEFINITELY FAVOR "COMPROMISE" WHICH HE HAD PREVIOUSLY OUTLINED.

6. BELGIAN REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES FAVORED ALLIED AGREEMENT THAT ALL LARG VISA APPLICATIONS BE REFERRED TO CAPITALS AND THAT HOLDERS OF LARG PASSPORTS BE REQUIRED PRESENT AUTHENTICATED TRANSLATION OF PASSPORT INFORMATION. HE ADDED THAT THIS POSITION WOULD HAVE TO BE REEXAMINED IN LIGHT ITALIAN PROPOSAL AND REPORT THAT LARG BACKING DOWN. ITALIAN REP SUGGESTED THAT BELGIAN STATEMENT INDICATED READINESS ACCEPT ITALIAN PROPOSAL, BUT BELGIAN REP SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE TOO VAGUE TO ALLOW FOR SUCH JUDGMENT.

7. US REP DREW ON PARA 3 OF STATE 85612 IN STRESSING NEED FOR COMMON ALLIED POSITION. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT ALLIES SHOULD BEWARE OF DANGER POSED BY LARG "SALAMI TACTICS."

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8. COMMENT: IN VIEW MIXED REACTION TO ITALIAN PROPOSAL AND FACT MOST DELEGATIONS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, COMMITTEE WILL MEET AGAIN MAY 11 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. IF REPORTS ARE TRUE THAT LARG BACKING DOWN FROM LATEST PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS, IT SEEMS TO US DESIRABLE THAT ALLIES SHOULD HOLD OFF ANY MOVE ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY ITALIANS. FRANCE MAY BE KEY ELEMENT IN THIS CASE. IF FRENCH HAVE ALREADY GIVEN INTO LARG, CERTAINLY ITALIANS AND PROBABLY OTHER ALLIES WILL FOLLOW. HOWEVER, IF FRENCH HAVE NOT

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